

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 to 4, 7 to 11 and 14, and add new Claims 16 and 17 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

a specifying unit adapted to specify a terminal device, in which the image information to be printed has been stored[[,]] in accordance with the print request, wherein the print request includes including information for designating the [[a]] printer as a print destination;

a first designating unit adapted to instruct the terminal device specified by said specifying unit to ~~directly~~ transfer the image information to the printer designated as the print destination without passing the image information through the information processing apparatus; and

a management unit adapted to manage record information including a printing date indicating [[of]] the printing was performed by the printer based on the instruction by said first designating unit.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises a second designating unit adapted to designate the [[a]] printer as the print destination ~~that is to print image information,~~ and

said first designating unit instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated by said second designating unit and the terminal device storing the image information.

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the mode of connection indicates said first designating unit instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon whether said terminal device and the printer are connected locally or via a network.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said specifying unit includes a management database for managing the image information as image file names, and

wherein said specifying unit specifies the [[a]] terminal device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in said management database.

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image file name is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image information and an identifier of this terminal device.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a totalization unit adapted to totalize statistical information based upon attribute information in said management database.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the attribute information includes information on identifiers, image file names, number of pages to be printed and the printing date.

8. (Currently amended) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus for instructing a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said method comprising:

specifying a terminal device, in which the image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with the print request, wherein the print request includes including information for designating the [[a]] printer as a print destination;

instructing the terminal device specified at said specifying step to directly transfer the image information to the printer designated as the print destination without passing the image information through the information processing apparatus; and

managing record information including a printing date indicating [[of]] the printing performed by the printer based on the instruction.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising, performed by any of the plurality of terminal devices, designating the [[a]] printer as the print destination ~~that is to print image information~~,

wherein said instructing step instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated in said designating step and the terminal device storing the image information.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the mode of connection indicates ~~said instructing step includes instructing transfer of the image information in dependence upon~~ whether the terminal device and the printer are connected locally or via a network.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein said specifying step includes specifying the [[a]] terminal device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in a management database for managing the image information as image file names.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the image file name is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image information and an identifier of this terminal device.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising totalizing statistical information based upon attribute information in the management database.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the attribute information includes information on identifiers, the image file names, number of pages to be printed and the printing date.

15. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing program code for causing a computer to implement the method set forth in claim 8.

16. (New) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the print request is issued from a first terminal device, and said specifying unit specifies a second terminal device as the terminal device in which the image information to be printed has been stored.

17. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the print request is issued from a first terminal device, and said specifying unit specifies a second terminal device as the terminal device in which the image information to be printed has been stored.